

SBCD Site Sub-Committee Report February 5, 2025

The Site Selection Sub-Committee was created in the Fall of 2023 to analyze the various sites within the Snyderville Basin and to recommend a suitable site for a cemetery. The Committee has analyzed the dozen or so sites listed in Christa Cassidy's Needs Assessment and other sites recommended by County Open Space Director, Jessica Kirby. The site that rose to the top of the list is a parcel at the Utah Olympic Park. It has become the Cemetery District's proposed preferred site. The County Manager and the County Council visited the site in the Fall of 2024 and seemed to give a united "Thumbs Up". Recently, an advisory committee consisting of stake holders was organized to assist the district in evaluating the UOP site. The Advisory Committee consists of Jessica Kirby and representatives from Snyderville Basin Recreation District, Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation, Mountain Trails, and SBCD board members Pete Gilwald and Max Greenhalgh. The committee held its first meeting on January 30th.

The meeting gave attendees the opportunity to express their concerns, which included the potential impacts a cemetery could have on the environment, possible impacts with existing trails, and possible conflicts between trail users and somber gatherings at the cemetery. A summary of these concerns are as follows:

Possible Environmental Impacts

- (1) There's a spring above the southwest corner of the proposed site that will need to be protected. The district will comply with any directives or recommendations offered by the County Health Department or any State or Federal Entities (including the Army Corps of Engineers) to protect this water source.
- (2) There's concern that the preferred site may be within the protection boundary of a deep water well owned by Summit Water Distribution Company. After being appraised of the distance from the preferred site to their well, Summit Water reported back that the preferred site is not within their protection zone.
- (3) There is a concern that there could be water table issues at the preferred site. A dozen or so test pits have been dug that indicate the areas that are suitable for burial sites. It was brought up that inasmuch as some of the test holes were dug in the Fall that we should re-dig the areas intended for burials in the Spring.

Possible Conflicts with existing trails. There are two existing trails that presently are located within the proposed boundaries of the preferred site as follows:

- (1) A single-track trail that is situated along the western section of the preferred site boundary. We feel the trail could be pushed a bit west to form the western boundary of the preferred site. Moving the trail can be accomplished without increasing the slope of the trail.
- (2) A 5-K trail that passes through the lower middle of the preferred site. Presently, the trail slopes down into the drainage area north of the preferred site and then upwards as the trail crosses into the preferred site. We feel that if the trail were

aligned to go around the preferred site, the slope would be more level than presently configured and could keep the trail at the 5K length.

Possible conflicts between trail users and cemetery gatherings.

The stake holders are concerned that trail users could be perceived as interrupting or being disrespectful as they cross into the cemetery. While we appreciate the concern, we feel this issue could be ameliorated by the district providing buffer areas between trails and any area where grave ceremonies could be held and encouraging trail users to exhibit a respectful demeanor—toning down their voices, leashing their dogs, etc. as they pass through. The stake holders feel it would be better to just re-route the trails and that the Cemetery District should bear the costs of doing so. (Seems reasonable.)

Generally, the stake holder's preference is for the district to choose another site. However, if the district were to decide to create a cemetery at UOP, most participants expressed a willingness to work with the district to minimize the impacts and accommodate the district's objective.

Conclusion

We feel the proposed UOP site is the best site for a cemetery in the Snyderville Basin. Our conclusion is based on the following:

- (1) The site is Summit County owned, meaning the Basin taxpayers will not have to purchase a site.
- (2) It is central to the unincorporated area of the Snyderville Basin and is integral to the Kimball Junction town center.
- (3) Due to this proximity, there's no doubt it will be visited by more people than would be visited at any other possible site.
- (4) The soil at the burial areas is adequate for interments and all environmental impacts can be adequately mitigated.
- (5) The affected trails can be modified to minimize possible conflicts with the cemetery operation.
- (6) A cemetery is a permitted use in the UOP deed restrictions.

Due to the district's intent to create a cemetery with a park-like setting that is harmonious with the environment, exhibits public art, and offers opportunities for respectful mourning of loved ones, a cemetery at UOP will become a prized addition to the Utah Olympic Park and the Snyderville Basin. We recommend that the Board consider naming the proposed site at UOP the District's preferred site and move forward with obtaining approvals needed to begin the creation of the cemetery.

Pete Gilwald
Max Greenhalgh
February 5, 2025